



Update...

A Word from the Chair...

EFCOG Chair, Michael Lempke
Huntington Ingalls Industries

As we assess our progress and challenges in the third quarter of 2023, I want to underscore the importance of remaining diligent about continuing to improve safety performance throughout the complex. The core mission of EFCOG is to help ensure the success of DOE and NNSA, and that success starts with a strong foundation of safety. I know every EFCOG member is committed to the safety of their workforce, but as many of us are aware, it only takes one incident to have a significant impact not only on the operations of a specific site, but on the entire DOE/NNSA complex. I call upon every EFCOG member to examine and strengthen safety programs and oversight, including ensuring an effective safety culture and that safety requirements effectively flow down to your subcontractors.

I'm proud of the initiatives EFCOG has conducted to help ensure safe, secure and effective operations across the DOE/NNSA complex, such as examining the rigor of conduct of operations and more in-depth implementation of the SAFER system. In addition, many of EFCOG's Working Groups are involved with a wide variety of activities related to safety. If your company is not represented on EFCOG's Working Groups and task teams, I recommend you consider supporting.

Another way EFCOG helps DOE and NNSA is by convening a wide variety of representatives to examine issues and develop solutions. Over the past quarter, EFCOG was proud to sponsor events, including a meeting at Los Alamos with DOE and community representatives to discuss workforce development needs for the DOE Office of Environmental Management (EM). This was the first of a set of planned workforce development meetings planned across the EM complex, utilizing the five-year workforce projections EFCOG helped to compile. I am also especially proud of this year's National Cleanup Workshop, which EFCOG sponsors with the Energy Communities Alliance and EM. This year was our largest event to date, and for the first time, featured a focus on early career professionals that was well received.

EFCOG and its members have been a significant contributor to accomplishments DOE has realized so far this year throughout EM, NNSA and the national labs. There's still three months to go, and to ensure we collectively finish strong, we must maintain a strong focus on safe operations. Thank you for all you and your companies do to help assure DOE mission success!

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WORKING GROUP UPDATES

Safeguards & Security Working Group

Chair – H. Ray Hubbs, Jr., Y-12 National Security Complex

Vice Chair – Leon Wood, Pacific Northwest National Laboratory

Secretary – Michelle Stellflug, Pacific Northwest National Laboratory

DOE Liaison – Mark Hojnacke

EFCOG Board of Directors Sponsor – DJ Johnson, Honeywell Federal Solutions

In Fiscal Year 2023, the Safeguards and Security Working Group (SSWG) focused on key areas to address current or emerging challenges and to deliver efficiency and effectiveness in the development of Safeguards and Security Programs. Each subgroup conducted multiple conference call meetings to move forward with identified initiatives.

The newest, and most fascinating initiative, is working with the DOE Office of Insider Threat Program (OITP). The timing could not have been better to discuss this topic than now since September is National Insider Threat Awareness Month. This year's focus is on the Bystander Effect. This is defined, according to *Psychology Today*, as

BYSTANDER EFFECT.

YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE



when the presence of others discourages an individual from intervening in an emergency situation, against a bully, or during an assault or other crime. The greater the number of bystanders, the less likely it is for any one of them to provide help to a person in distress. People are more likely to take action in a crisis when there are few or no other witnesses present.

There are numerous cases where many people witnessed an event and did nothing. In most of those cases, if not all, if only one person had immediately called for help, or reported the incident, the outcome would have been different.

The Bystander Effect is not only relevant in the city streets, but also where we work. We know someone that is struggling. Maybe it's a financial issue, personal issue, or even a health issue. The employee just isn't acting right. Maybe they are less interactive or less attentive. Maybe they are working odd hours and carrying home lots of files. You hear the phrase, "See Something, Say Something." If it has caught your attention, then you should let someone know.

It is harder to prevent insider threats than external ones. Approximately 60 percent of insider incidents are caused by negligent employees. Malicious insiders make up another 14 percent. According to a Global Cybersecurity Study by Proofpoint, Inc., Insider Threats cost organizations \$15.4 million annually, up 34 percent from 2020. The frequency of incidents per company has also gone up with 67 percent of companies experiencing between 21 and more than 40 incidents per year, up from 60 percent in 2020.

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Insider threats in the DOE/NNSA complex can manifest damage through espionage, unauthorized disclosure of classified information, workplace violence, or sabotage.

Proactively managing insider threats can stop an incident or change the course of events from a harmful outcome through effective mitigation. Organizations manage insider threats through interventions intended to reduce the risk posed by a person of concern. The organization must keep in mind that the prevention of an insider threat incident and protection of the organization and its people are the ultimate goals.



The SSWG subgroup, Program Planning Management, will be working closely with the OITP to improve communications among Local Insider Threat Awareness Groups (LITWG), reviewing and assisting in identifying lessons learned on core membership of the LITWGs, and play a role in the re-write of DOE Order 470.5, Insider Threat Program.

The SSWG continues an aggressive work plan with all of our sub-groups. Information Security continues to work on a number of projects to include sharing effective performance assurance activities to ensure compliance with Information Security, to include CMPC, and OPSEC requirements. MC&A has completed work on the development of a measurement equipment matrix and a number of brochures and best practices. The PPM Team will also look at developing and submitting recommendations to update the DOE Incidents of Security Concern Standard.

We look forward to this new year and having the opportunity to share our ideas, challenges, and accomplishments with our EFCOG community.

Communications Working Group

Chair – Dee Gray, Navarro

Vice Chair – Rob Roxburgh, Hanford Central Plateau Cleanup Co.

DOE Liaison – Erik Olds, DOE-EM

EFCOG Board of Directors Sponsors – Mark Whitney, Amentum

In its inaugural year, the Communications Working Group achieved remarkable success and made significant contributions to the DOE mission.

The committee's core objective was to develop an annual working plan that included the following:

- Develop & issue open air demolition communications best practices guide - **Completed**
- Develop best practices guide for contract transition-related communications, distributed July 2023 – **Completed**
- Draft and distribute Communications Contract/RFP language recommendation – **Completed**
- Develop plan to improve communications-related training, distribute by calendar year end 2023 – **In progress**

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- Develop detailed communications staffing model, issue by September 2023 – **Completed**
- Work with DOE-EM and contractor HR to support next-generation workforce recruitment – **In progress**

Overall, the first year was a success with the core objective not only met but exceeded.

Thanks to the leadership team consisting of Chairman – Keith Wood, Amentum; Vice Chairman – Dee Gray, Jacobs; EM Subcommittee Chair – Rob Roxburgh, CPCCo; and NNSA Subcommittee Chair – Todd Jacobson, CNS. As it embarks on its second year, the Working Group is poised to build upon its initial success and continue making significant contributions to the DOE mission.

Upcoming Events

<i>DOE Sustainability Summit</i>	October 17, 2023
<i>Worker Safety & Health Subgroup Meeting</i>	October 23, 2023
<i>QA/ISM/CAS Fall 2023 Meeting</i>	November 6, 2023
<i>Nuclear Deterrence Summit</i>	January 31-February 2, 2024
<i>Waste Management Symposia</i>	March 10-14, 2024
<i>EFCOG Safeguards & Security WG Annual Meeting</i>	April 16-18, 2024
<i>EFCOG Annual Meeting</i>	June 18-19, 2024
<i>National Cleanup Workshop</i>	September 2024

*Pertinent info related to EFCOG events can be found on the
EFCOG home page: www.efcog.org*



Have questions about EFCOG membership, getting involved in Working Groups or upcoming events? Reach out to staff@efcog.org

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